

SENATE CHAMBER,
AUSTIN, Tuesday, May 24, 1870.

Senate met pursuant to adjournment. Roll called; quorum present. Prayer by the Chaplain. Journal of yesterday read and approved.

Senator Fountain moved to adjourn and said :

MR. PRESIDENT: Again death has entered the portal of this Capitol, and one of our number has been stricken down. Hon. W. T. Wilkinson, Representative from the Twenty-fifth District, is dead. Another soldier has fallen at his post doing duty. It is customary and right, when death strikes those who have been chosen to fill offices of honor and trust, that the event should not be allowed to pass unheeded.

I look to the place once occupied by him whose melancholy duty it would have been to speak on this occasion. There, too, death has been; the seat is vacant, and whilst I feel it to be my duty to perform this task, I feel that I am unable to do justice to the deceased. So few are the summers upon my head, compared with many around me, that I feel that older heads and abler, and more eloquent lips than mine are required to do justice to this occasion.

Not many weeks have passed since we were startled by the melancholy intelligence that the Senator from the 25th District was no more, that he had been called to a seat in the Senate above.

Again the silver cord of existence is severed, and the colleague of the lamented Foster is called to his eternal home; behind the far distant horizon of eternity his sun of life has set. A few days ago, and the deceased stood on the floor of this Capitol, alive to every subject that could affect the interests of the State and his constituency, and faithfully discharging the duties of his high and honorable position. Now his body lies in the cold embrace of death, and his spirit has flown from the troubles of this transitory existence; his mortal career has ended. Whatever may have been his faults, and who is exempt, let them be buried with him; let the good he has done survive; let us cherish his memory, and embalm his virtues in our hearts, while life endures.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I will move that this Senate do now adjourn until 2 o'clock P. M. to-morrow, out of respect to the memory of the deceased.

Motion carried; Senate adjourned.